



Inside Illinois DNR

January 2024 • Volume 12, Number 1

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IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. **Click here** to see the job openings available.

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Message from Director Natalie Phelps Finnie



Happy holidays and welcome to 2024. For anyone still looking for a New Year's resolution for 2024, I recommend adding getting outdoors more often to that list of goals. An excellent way to do this is to visit an Illinois state park.

The winter season can make it all too easy to stay inside, but don't let the cold be a deterrent. Bundle up and enjoy the crisp winter air, the sparkling snow and the beautiful vistas at an Illinois state park. You may discover a new facet of the area that you had never noticed in the summer, spring, or fall.

So far, this winter hasn't had an abundance of snow, but should the weather decide to cooperate, then Illinois offers great opportunities for winter recreation, including snowmobiling on state trails and ice fishing.

For anyone planning to go out snowmobiling, make sure you're up to date with your snowmobile safety education. IDNR offers free classes that are taught by certified volunteer instructors that can help you get up to speed on all things snowmobile safety. Always remember when ice fishing to review the safety checklist on ice thickness and prepare for the elements. <https://ifishillinois.org/programs/ice.php>

Also, don't forget our state parks along the Illinois, Mississippi and Ohio rivers are great eagle watching destinations. Each winter IDNR biologists and park staff welcome visitors throughout the winter to Pere Marquette State Park's Bald Eagle Days tours. <https://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/event/park.peremarquette.html>

Visitors learn to distinguish between immature and mature bald eagles, what eagles eat, why they spend winter months in the area, and much more. This program begins at the park's visitor center at 8:30 a.m. and reservations are required.

Snowmobiling, ice fishing, eagle watching, or just enjoying being out in nature is just a few examples of great wintertime activities that you and your family can spend January experiencing. Whatever you decide, I hope you enjoy the winter outdoors in Illinois.



DNR in the News

Grants over \$45K
for pheasant
conservation projects

'Quite the journey:'
Monarch butterfly license
plates finally available

A southern Illinois school
will benefit from IDNR
grants for field trips to
state historic sites

Rock Island park
receiving DNR funding
for a new walking trail

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



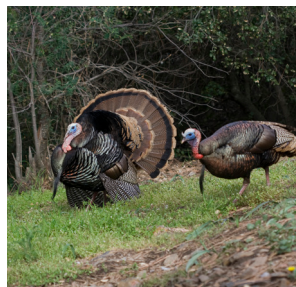
Ice fishing safety and information

Make safety a priority when ice fishing this winter. Thoroughly check the ice for thickness – it should be at least 4 inches thick – before dropping lines. More ice fishing information is [available](#).



Target Illinois Poachers

Illinois Conservation Police have the [Target Illinois Poachers](#) program to encourage people to report poaching violations. Reports can be made by calling 1-877-2DNRLAW (1-877-236-7529) or reporting the violation by e-mail.



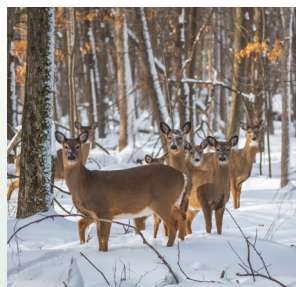
2024 spring turkey hunting permits

All hunters are eligible to apply for one spring turkey hunting permit. The [second lottery](#) applications are being accepted through Jan. 11.



More than 76,000 deer harvested during Illinois firearm deer season

Hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 76,232 deer during the seven-day 2023 [Illinois firearm deer season](#) that concluded Dec. 3. Comparatively, hunters harvested 76,854 deer during the 2022 firearm season.



Late-winter deer season hunting information

The [late-winter antlerless](#) only deer hunting season continues Jan. 12-14. One antlerless deer is allowed per legally authorized permit. Only antlerless deer may be harvested during this season. An antlerless deer is defined as a deer without antlers or a deer having antlers less than 3 inches long.

Highlights



Special CWD deer season hunting information

The special chronic-wasting disease (CWD) deer hunting season continues Jan. 12-14. Deer taken during the season are not subject to the antlered deer bag limit restrictions imposed during the firearm, muzzleloader, youth, and archery [deer hunting seasons](#).



IDNR concludes record-breaking invasive carp removal effort on Upper Illinois River

IDNR fisheries biologists, with support from contracted commercial fishers and other biologists, wrapped up a 10-day intensive harvest operation in the Starved Rock pool of the Illinois River, resulting in the removal of an astonishing [750,000 pounds of silver carp](#) between Nov. 27 and Dec. 6.



IDNR recognizes companies for reclamation efforts

IDNR was proud to announce the recipients of the 2023 [Land Reclamation Awards](#), presented by the Office of Mines and Minerals, Land Reclamation and Explosive and Aggregate divisions.



Controlled pheasant hunting season extended

IDNR is extending the controlled pheasant hunting program for the 2023-2024 season. Some sites will be extended by one to two weeks in different areas of the state. Hunters should check the [permit calendar](#) on the controlled pheasant hunting website for permit availability.



Highlights



[Click for info](#)



[Click for info](#)



[Click for info](#)



[Click for info](#)



Starved Rock Eagle Watch Weekend Jan. 27-28

Plan to visit Starved Rock [Eagle Watch Weekend](#) Jan. 27-28. Eagle Watch Weekend is a two-day, family-friendly event. Seating will be limited to first come, first served.

More eagle viewing [events](#).



Pere Marquette Bald Eagle Festival set for Jan. 28

Come out to Pere Marquette State Park's [Bald Eagle Festival](#) on Jan. 28 and meet this majestic symbol up close. This crowd favorite festival will have numerous unique vendors, restaurant favorites, drink specials, free face painting, live bird shows, and more family fun.



IDNR is hiring

Great job opportunities are available at IDNR. [Apply today!](#)



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Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois. DNR-DIR-24001-01, web 